



New Generic Top-Level Domains

— Trademark Clearinghouse

The Trademark Clearinghouse is one of several important enhanced rights protection mechanisms that have been built into the New gTLD Program. The Trademark Clearinghouse will accept and authenticate rights information, and will support both trademark claims and sunrise services, required in all new gTLDs.

TRADEMARK CLEARINGHOUSE

News & Views

FAQs: Trademark Clearinghouse

Get the answers to your most frequently asked Trademark Clearinghouse questions. [Read them now \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/faqs\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/faqs).

Submit a Trademark to the Clearinghouse

Deloitte Enterprise Risk Services will serve as the trademark validation provider for the Clearinghouse. Learn more at <http://trademark-clearinghouse.com> (<http://trademark-clearinghouse.com>).

Implementation of Sunrise and Trademark Claims

ICANN is currently working with service providers to build the systems to support Sunrise and Claims services for all new gTLD registries. [Participate in the discussion \(http://mm.icann.org/pipermail/tmch-iag/\)](http://mm.icann.org/pipermail/tmch-iag/).

Understanding the Trademark Clearinghouse

Overview

The New generic Top-Level Domain (New gTLD) Program promises to greatly expand the domain name system (DNS). Working with Intellectual Property experts and various community stakeholders, ICANN developed mechanisms that enable trademark holders to protect their rights during the DNS expansion. The Trademark Clearinghouse mechanism functions by authenticating information from rights holders and providing this information to registries and registrars. Benefits of registering a trademark with the Clearinghouse include access to Sunrise registration with new gTLD registries and notification from the Clearinghouse when a domain matching your trademark has been registered.

Information on the [Trademark Clearinghouse model \(/en/applicants/agb/trademark-clearinghouse-11jan12-en.pdf\)](/en/applicants/agb/trademark-clearinghouse-11jan12-en.pdf) [PDF, 163 KB] can be found in the [Applicant Guidebook \(/en/applicants/agb\)](/en/applicants/agb).

Below find archival materials detailing how the Trademark Clearinghouse was developed and implemented, listed chronologically.

Development

March 2009 — Implementation Recommendation Team (IRT)

ICANN's Board of Directors forms a team of 18 intellectual property experts to develop rights protection mechanisms for new gTLDs.

- [IRT Report \(http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/irt-final-report-trademark-protection-29may09-en.pdf\)](http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/irt-final-report-trademark-protection-29may09-en.pdf) [PDF, 299 KB] (29 May 09)

October 2009 — Special Trademark Issues (STI) Team

A cross-constituency team reviews IRT recommendations providing a multi-stakeholder consensus view.

- [STI Report \(http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/sti-17dec09-en.htm\)](http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/sti-17dec09-en.htm) (17 Dec 09)

February–April 2011 — Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

ICANN's GAC participates in extended discussions with the Board of Directors on topics associated with the New gTLD Program, including rights protection.

- [Indicative Scorecard on New gTLD Outstanding Issues - GAC Cartagena Communiqué \(http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/gac-scorecard-23feb11-en.pdf\)](http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/gac-scorecard-23feb11-en.pdf) [PDF, 332 KB] (23 Feb 11)
- [ICANN Board Notes on Indicative Scorecard \(http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/board-notes-gac-scorecard-04mar11-en.pdf\)](http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/board-notes-gac-scorecard-04mar11-en.pdf) [PDF, 814 KB] (04 Mar 11)
- [Protection of Rights: GAC Responses to Board Questions Raised in Brussels \(https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/1540128/20110309-GAC+replies+to+ICANN+rights+protection+questions.pdf\)](https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/1540128/20110309-GAC+replies+to+ICANN+rights+protection+questions.pdf) [PDF, 135 KB] (28 Feb 11)
- [New gTLD Rights Protection Mechanisms: Points of Difference between Board and GAC \(https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/1540128/20110419-GAC_comments_on_NewgTLD_Rights_Protection.pdf\)](https://gacweb.icann.org/download/attachments/1540128/20110419-GAC_comments_on_NewgTLD_Rights_Protection.pdf) [PDF, 113 KB] (19 Apr 11)
- [GAC Comments on Board's Notes on Indicative Scorecard \(http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/gac-comments-board-response-gac-scorecard-12apr11-en.pdf\)](http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/gac-comments-board-response-gac-scorecard-12apr11-en.pdf) [PDF, 145 KB] (12 Apr 11)
- [Revised ICANN Notes: Indicative Scorecard and GAC Comments to Board Response \(http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/board-notes-gac-scorecard-clean-15apr11-en.pdf\)](http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/board-notes-gac-scorecard-clean-15apr11-en.pdf) [PDF, 276 KB] (15 Apr 11)

Implementation

October 2011 — Implementation Assistance Group (IAG)

ICANN calls for volunteers to aid in the implementation of Trademark Clearinghouse processes. Over 50 volunteers respond, forming the Implementation Assistance Group (IAG).

- [IAG Summary of Input \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/summary-iag-input-26sep12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/summary-iag-input-26sep12-en.pdf) [PDF, 591 KB]
- IAG Documentation:
 - [Issue Papers \(https://community.icann.org/display/cctrdmrklrnghsiag/Documents\)](https://community.icann.org/display/cctrdmrklrnghsiag/Documents)
 - [Mailing List Archives \(http://mm.icann.org/pipermail/tmch-iag/\)](http://mm.icann.org/pipermail/tmch-iag/)
 - [Conference Call Slides and Recordings \(https://community.icann.org/display/cctrdmrklrnghsiag/Meetings\)](https://community.icann.org/display/cctrdmrklrnghsiag/Meetings)
 - [IAG Member Statements of Interest \(https://community.icann.org/display/cctrdmrklrnghsiag/Statements+of+Interest\)](https://community.icann.org/display/cctrdmrklrnghsiag/Statements+of+Interest)

October–November 2011 — Request for Information (RFI)

An RFI and two Question & Answer documents are published to solicit proposals for potential Trademark Clearinghouse providers. The RFI closes on 28 November 2011.

- [Protecting Trademark Rights in New gTLDs: Selection of Trademark Clearinghouse Service Providers \(http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-3-01jun12-en.htm\)](http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-3-01jun12-en.htm) (01 Jun 12)
- [Request for Information \(http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-5-03oct11-en.htm\)](http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-5-03oct11-en.htm) (03 Oct 11)
- RFI Documentation:
 - [Question and Answer 1 \(http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/trademark-clearinghouse-rfi-qanda-10nov11-en.pdf\)](http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/trademark-clearinghouse-rfi-qanda-10nov11-en.pdf) [PDF, 530 KB] (10 Nov 2011)

- [Q&A 2 \(http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/tmc-rfi-additional-qanda-17nov11-en.pdf\)](http://archive.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/tmc-rfi-additional-qanda-17nov11-en.pdf) [PDF, 62 KB] (17 Nov 2011)

April–June 2012 – Timeline and Models

ICANN publishes a proposed structure for Clearinghouse implementation, and information on expected progress and pricing for Clearinghouse services.

- [Project Timeline: October 2011 – October 2012 \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/project-timeline-14may12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/project-timeline-14may12-en.pdf) [PDF, 139 KB] (14 May 2012)
- [Preliminary Cost Model \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/prelim-cost-model-01jun12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/prelim-cost-model-01jun12-en.pdf) [PDF, 70 KB] (01 Jun 2012)
- [Draft Implementation Model \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/draft-implementation-model-13apr12.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/draft-implementation-model-13apr12.pdf) [PDF, 631 KB] (13 Apr 12)

June 2012 – Procurement of Trademark Clearinghouse Providers

After considering proposals from a host of potential providers, ICANN elects to work with Deloitte Enterprise Risk Services and IBM on Clearinghouse services implementation.

- [Protecting Trademark Rights: Selection of Trademark Clearinghouse Service Providers \(http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-3-01jun12-en.htm\)](http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-3-01jun12-en.htm) (01 Jun 2012)

August 2012 – Forum on Technical Implementation Issues

Meeting focused on Sunrise and Trademark Claims processes.

- [Overview \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/forum-on-technical-issues-13aug12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/forum-on-technical-issues-13aug12-en.pdf) [PDF, 64 KB] (13 Aug 2012)
- [Agenda \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/agenda-technical-issues-20aug12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/agenda-technical-issues-20aug12-en.pdf) [PDF, 71 KB] (20 Aug 2012)
- [Web Meeting Recording 1 \(http://icann.adobeconnect.com/p4mn50pkwcf/\)](http://icann.adobeconnect.com/p4mn50pkwcf/) (20 Aug 12) **Note: this session lacks audio*
- [Web Meeting Recording 2 \(http://icann.adobeconnect.com/p143hhusk3u/\)](http://icann.adobeconnect.com/p143hhusk3u/) (21 Aug 12)

September 2012 – Registry Technical Mailing List

Discussion about the technical details of the Registry-Clearinghouse interface.

- [Conference Call Recording \(http://audio.icann.org/new-gtlds/tmch-sunrise-claims-20sep12-en.mp3\)](http://audio.icann.org/new-gtlds/tmch-sunrise-claims-20sep12-en.mp3) [MP3, 24.2 MB] (20 Sep 12)
- [Conference Call Recording \(http://audio.icann.org/new-gtlds/tmch-tech-25sep12-en.mp3\)](http://audio.icann.org/new-gtlds/tmch-tech-25sep12-en.mp3) [MP3, 11.9 MB] (25 Sep 12)

September 2012 – Trademark Clearinghouse Provider Requirements

ICANN publishes information on the responsibilities of the Trademark Clearinghouse provider.

- [Draft Provider Requirements \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/draft-tmch-requirements-24sep12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/draft-tmch-requirements-24sep12-en.pdf) [PDF, 1.25 MB] (24 Sep 2012)

September–October 2012 – Community/ICANN Dialogue: Sunrise and Claims Implementation

The ICANN community proposes alternate solutions to Sunrise and Trademark Claims implementation. ICANN responds.

- [Community Concerns Regarding ICANN's Initial Clearinghouse Solution \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/model-issues-26sep12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/model-issues-26sep12-en.pdf) [PDF, 354 KB] (26 Sep 2012)
- [Community Proposed Sunrise Model \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/sunrise-model-26sep12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/sunrise-model-26sep12-en.pdf) [PDF, 379 KB] (26 Sep 2012)
- [Community Proposed Trademark Claims Model \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/claims-model-26sep12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/claims-model-26sep12-en.pdf) [PDF, 380 KB] (26 Sep 2012)
- [ICANN Comments on Alternative Implementation Proposals \(/en/program-status/correspondence/icann-to-drafting-group-08oct12-en.pdf\)](/en/program-status/correspondence/icann-to-drafting-group-08oct12-en.pdf) [PDF, 82 KB] (08 Oct 2012)
- [Slides: Alternate Trademark Clearinghouse Proposal \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/alternate-model-09oct12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/alternate-model-09oct12-en.pdf) [PDF, 262 KB] (09 Oct 2012)

September 2012 – Public Comment: Trademark Clearinghouse Implementation Material

ICANN invites public comment on implementation explanatory memoranda.

- [Memorandum on Implementing Matching Rules \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/matching-rules-24sep12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/matching-rules-24sep12-en.pdf) [PDF, 194 KB] (24 Sep 2012)
- [Memorandum on Implementing Proof of User Verification \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/proof-of-use-24sep12-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/proof-of-use-24sep12-en.pdf) [PDF, 176 KB]
- [Public Comment: Trademark Clearinghouse Documents \(http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/tmch-docs-24sep12-en.htm\)](http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/tmch-docs-24sep12-en.htm)

November–December 2012 – Stakeholder/CEO Discussions: Achieving Implementation

Representatives from the Business, Intellectual Property, and ISP constituencies, the Noncommercial, Registrars, and Registries stakeholder groups, and the At-Large Advisory Committee came together to reach implementation solutions.

- [Building a Secure and Reliable Trademark Clearinghouse \(/en/blog/building-tmch-07nov12-en\)](/en/blog/building-tmch-07nov12-en) (07 Nov 2012)
- [Trademark Clearinghouse Update \(/en/blog/tmch-update-16nov12-en\)](/en/blog/tmch-update-16nov12-en) (16 Nov 2012)
- [A Follow-Up to Our Trademark Clearinghouse Meetings \(http://blog.icann.org/2012/11/a-follow-up-to-our-trademark-clearinghouse-meetings/\)](http://blog.icann.org/2012/11/a-follow-up-to-our-trademark-clearinghouse-meetings/) (26 Nov 2012)
- [Concluding the Series of Trademark Clearinghouse Meetings \(http://blog.icann.org/2012/12/concluding-the-series-of-trademark-clearinghouse-meetings/\)](http://blog.icann.org/2012/12/concluding-the-series-of-trademark-clearinghouse-meetings/) (13 Dec 2012)
- [Memorandum on TMCH Strawman Solution \(/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/strawman-solution-memo-20mar13-en.pdf\)](/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse/strawman-solution-memo-20mar13-en.pdf) [PDF, 117 KB] (20 Mar 2013)

December 2012 – Sunrise and Trademark Claims Implementation

Discussion about the implementation of the required rights protection mechanisms.

- [Business Model Discussion \(http://audio.icann.org/new-gtlds/tmch-sunrise-claims-19dec12-en.mp3\)](http://audio.icann.org/new-gtlds/tmch-sunrise-claims-19dec12-en.mp3) [MP3, 14.8 MB] (19 Dec 12)

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